

# Virginia Department of Veterans Services

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## News Release

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### *Veterans Town Hall Meeting Scheduled for Richmond*

RICHMOND—The Virginia Department of Veterans Services (DVS) will hold a town hall meeting in Richmond on March 15 at 6 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Virginia War Memorial, 621 South Belvidere Street in Richmond. This is one of five veterans town hall meetings scheduled across the state. Other meetings will be held in Roanoke, Abingdon, Suffolk, and Fredericksburg.

DVS is hosting the town hall meetings as part of the agency's response to Governor Kaine's Executive Order 19. This executive order directs DVS and other state agencies to work together to offer new, improved, or customized services to the state's veterans, especially disabled veterans.

"We've identified four primary areas of focus," stated DVS Commissioner Vince Burgess. "These topics are communication with our veterans; quality of life for all veterans; workforce development; and, delivery of veterans services by state government."

All veterans and their family members are encouraged to participate in the town hall meetings. The meetings will be highly interactive, structured, and facilitated to ensure that all participants have an opportunity to provide their comments and suggestions. Ideas from the meetings will be included in a report to Governor Kaine presenting recommendations for improved service to Virginia's veterans.

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## **About the Virginia Department of Veterans Services**

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services operates 20 benefit services offices where representatives assist veterans and their family members in filing claims for VA benefits. The agency operates two cemeteries for veterans: the Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Amelia and the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk. A third state veterans cemetery in Dublin, Virginia is in the initial stages of development. The agency operates the Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC) in Roanoke. The VVCC is a long-term care facility offering nursing and domiciliary care for veterans. The Sitter-Barfoot Veterans Care Center is under construction in Richmond and is slated to open in 2007. The agency also certifies that post-secondary educational institutions meet G.I. Bill funding and eligibility requirements, enabling veterans and family members to pursue educational opportunities.